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Nightmares
& Fairy Tales

Nightmares & Fairy Tales

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Story – Serena Valentino
Art – FSc

Lettering – FSc & Joshua Archer
Inside Covers – Joshua Archer
Editrix – Julia Dvorin

A Slave Labor Comic
President & Publisher – Dan Vado
Editrix-in-Chief – Jennifer de Guzman
Director of Sales – Deb Moskyok

Visit us:
www.slavelabor.com
www.serenavalentino.com

Email:
Serena – serena@serenavalentino.com
FSc – flyingsotongcan@yahoo.com

Cinderella's Story

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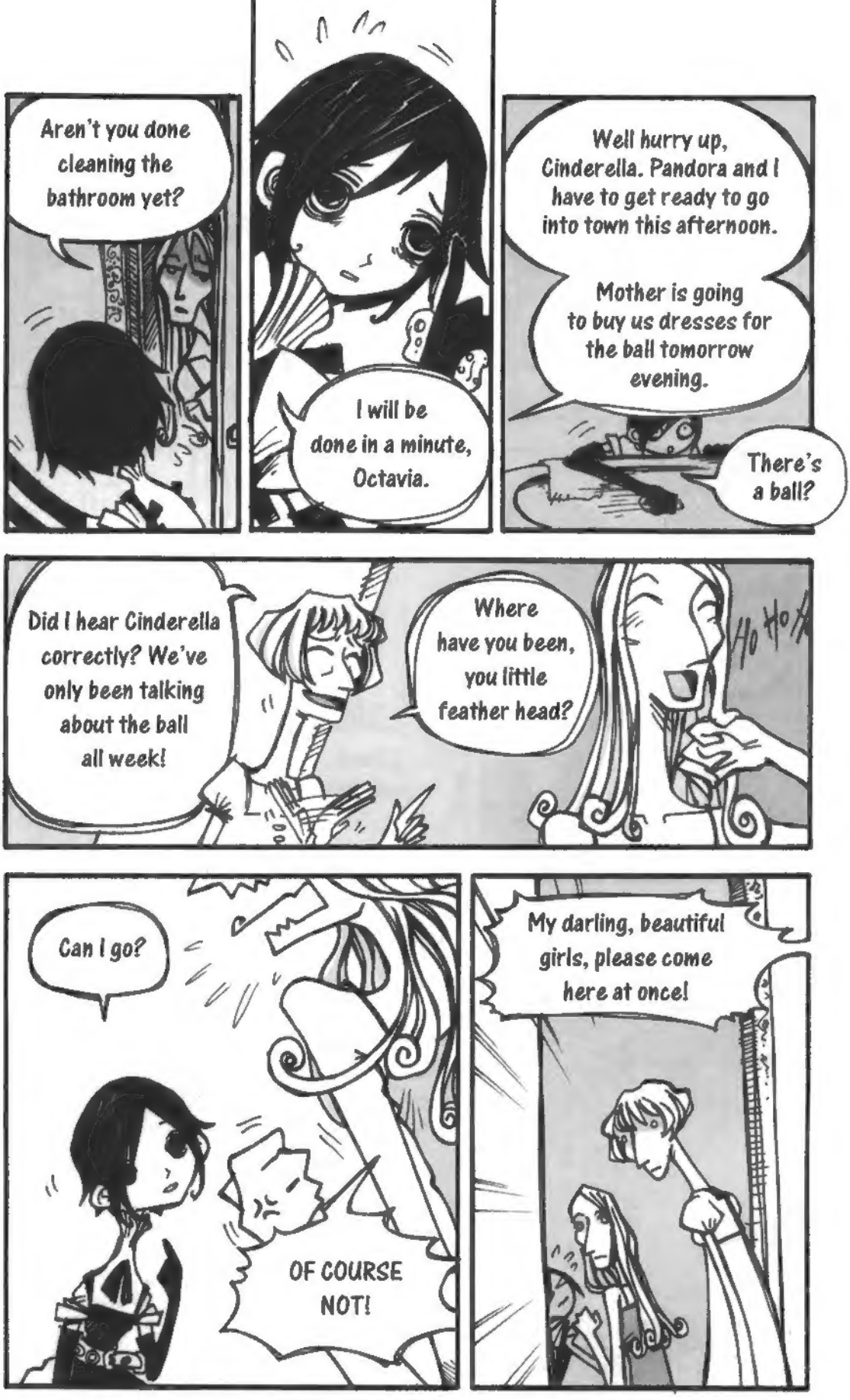
Tell me a story, Annabelle.
All my stories are frightening, dear.
They don't end happily ever after. ... I'm sure you don't want to hear them.
My story ended happy.
True.
Once upon a time, there was a bewitching woman named Verona...

...who was unfortunate enough to have two daughters that did not share her obvious beauty and grace.
But there was something she and her daughters did share—their hatred for Cinderella.
Perhaps it was envy, or simply cruelty...
...but regardless of the reasons, Verona and her daughters treated Cinderella like a servant, and not the princess she was.
May I help you, young sir?
Hello, Lady Verona. I have a message from the Royal court.
It seems only two of your daughters are on the list of attendees for the Royal ball: Octavia and Pandora. But, we understand that you have three.
Yes, the third is my step-daughter, Cinderella.

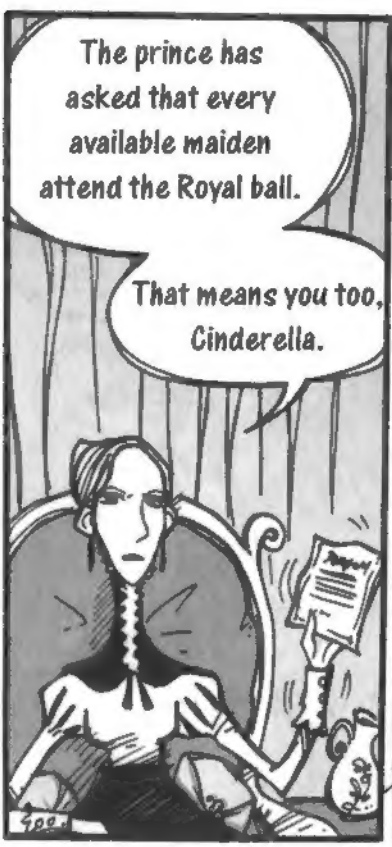
I'm afraid she will not be attending. She's a wild and wicked girl, I'm ashamed to say.
Regardless,
we will be expecting her at the ball, as decreed by the king.
You realize there are severe penalties for...
Yes... yes, of course. I understand.
I will make sure she attends.
Thank you, madame.

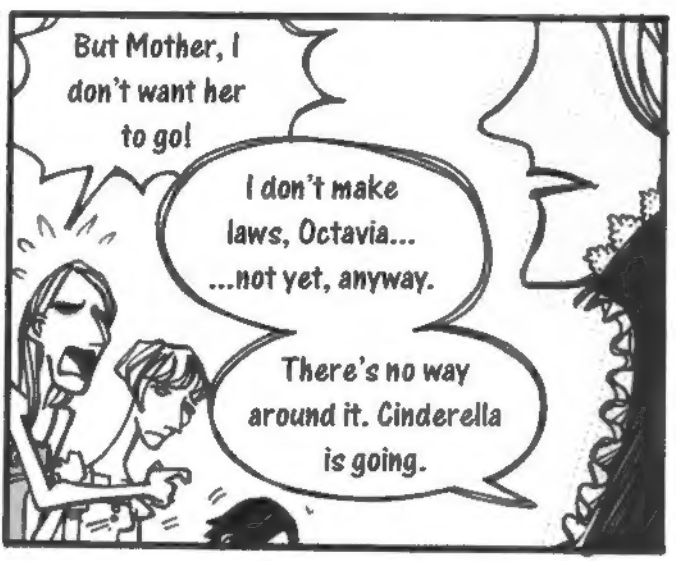

Aren't you done cleaning the bathroom yet?
I will be done in a minute, Octavia.
Well hurry up, Cinderella. Pandora and I have to get ready to go into town this afternoon.
Mother is going to buy us dresses for the ball tomorrow evening.
There's a ball?
Did I hear Cinderella correctly? We've only been talking about the ball all week!
Where have you been, you little feather head?
Ho Ho Ho
Can I go?
OF COURSE NOT!
My darling, beautiful girls, please come here at once!

Cinderella, I don't recall asking you to join me.

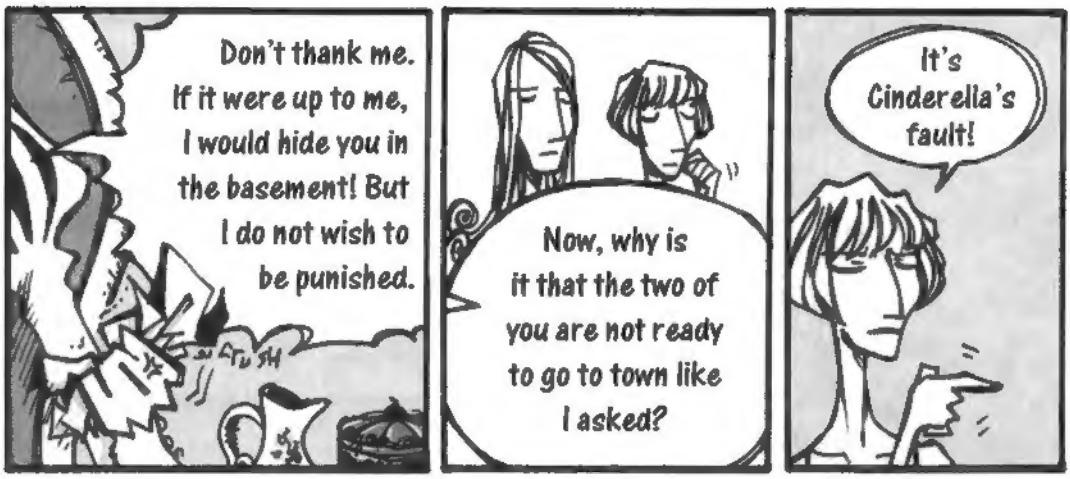
Nevertheless, I suppose this involves you as well...
...so you might as well stay.

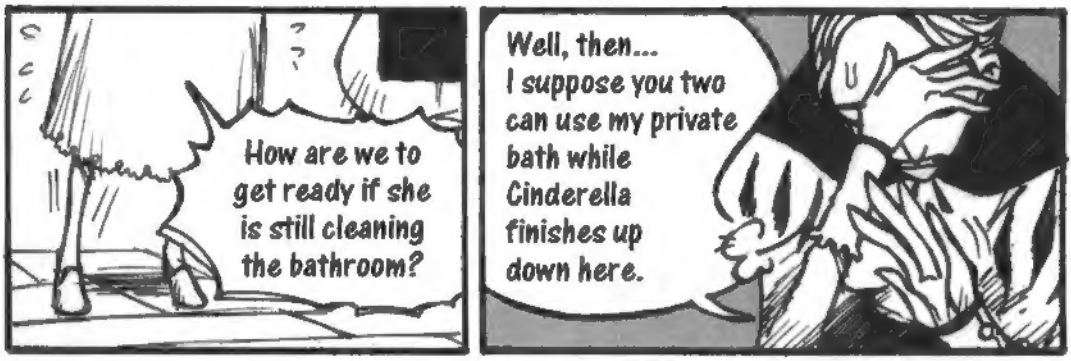
... ...

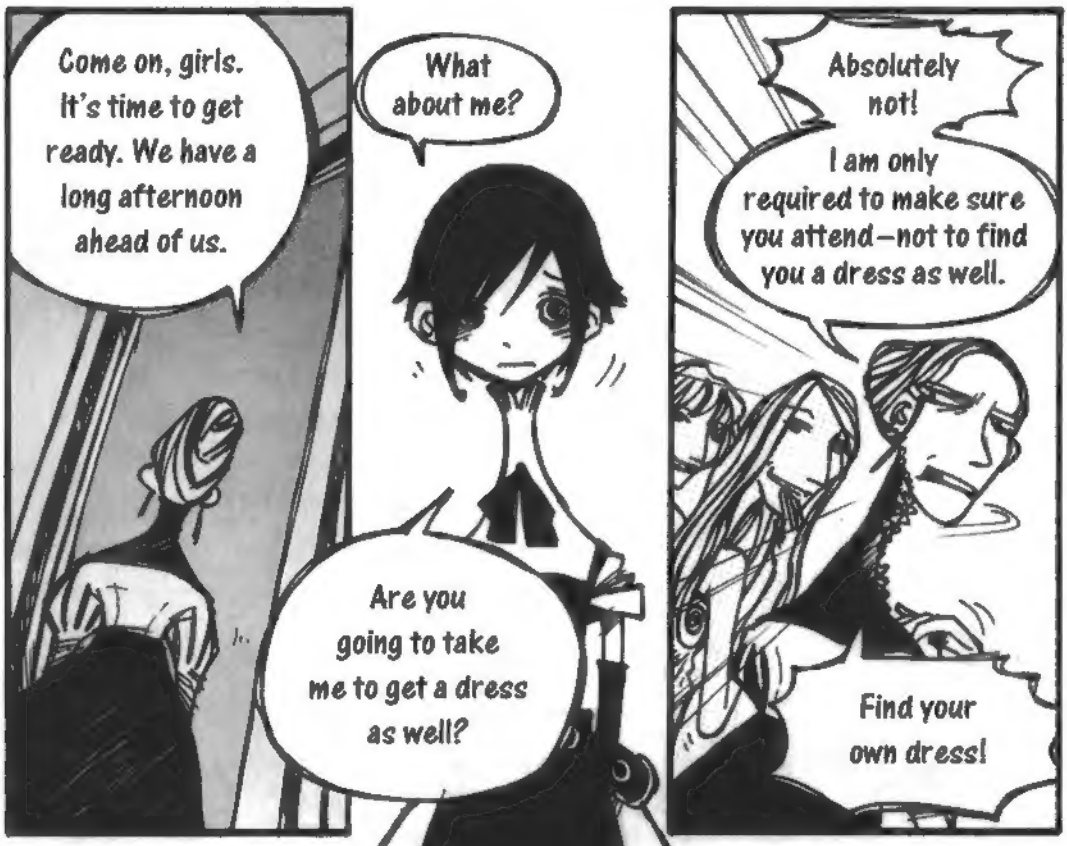

The prince has asked that every available maiden attend the Royal ball.
That means you too, Cinderella.


But Mother, I don't want her to go!
I don't make laws, Octavia... ...not yet, anyway.
There's no way around it. Cinderella is going.

Thank you, Stepmother.


Don't thank me. If it were up to me, I would hide you in the basement! But I do not wish to be punished.
Now, why is it that the two of you are not ready to go to town like I asked?
It's Cinderella's fault!


How are we to get ready if she is still cleaning the bathroom?
Well, then... I suppose you two can use my private bath while Cinderella finishes up down here.


Come on, girls. It's time to get ready. We have a long afternoon ahead of us.
What about me?
Are you going to take me to get a dress as well?
Absolutely not!
I am only required to make sure you attend—not to find you a dress as well.
Find your own dress!

Annabelle...
You are the answer to my prayers!

It just needs a little mending!

Cinderella, we are about to leave...

Where did you get that?

I told you it was my express wish that you do not go into your mother's old trunks.
It just appeared on my bed!
We'll just see if you have the time to mend the dress with all your other duties.
Speaking of which, I expect the entire house to be spotless by the time we arrive home.
But I won't have time to mend my dress. The ball is tomorrow evening.
Precisely.
... ...
I guess I won't be going after all.
Don't worry, my little dear.
You will be going.

Klang
Kalang
Klin
klin....
HAHA HA
HeeHA HA
I see you are still at your chores, Cinderella.
It's a shame you won't have time to repair your dress.
Come on, my darlings. Let's go upstairs and try on our beautiful things...
Heee... Heee
...and leave Cinderella here to her dishes.

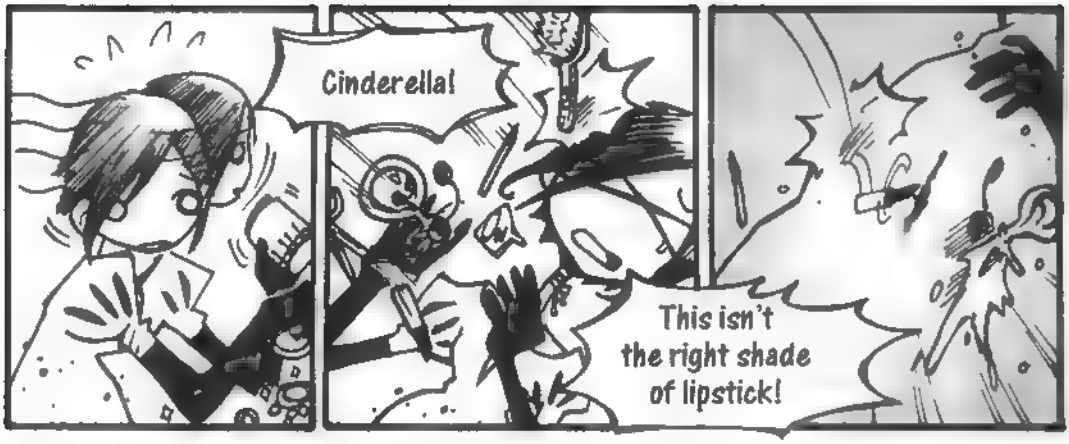
Darlings, you look wonderful. The prince will surely want one of you for his bride.
But mother, if Cinderella goes...
I will kill her if I have to!
She won't be going, I tell you, and we'll make sure of it.
Mother! What are you doing!?
It seems Cinderella neglected to clean this room.

Cinderella, please come in here.
... ...
I must ask you to clean this room before you go to bed. And it seems that you made quite a mess in the bathroom.
I must insist that you clean it at once!
But I didn't...
It's clear that it will take the majority of the night for you to clean this mess.
It's a shame, Cinderella, that you will not be getting much sleep tonight...
...or you might have been able to mend your dress in time.
Hee.. Hee
... Hee
... ...

Wake up, Cinderella.
Since you will not be attending the ball, I expect you to help us dress.
Chip Chip
She will be going!
Uhnn...
Now, did...
... ...
?
Oh my goodness! It's beautiful!
I don't know how you managed it, you horrible little creature...
...but mark my words. You will not be going!
SLAM
Thank you, Annabelle!

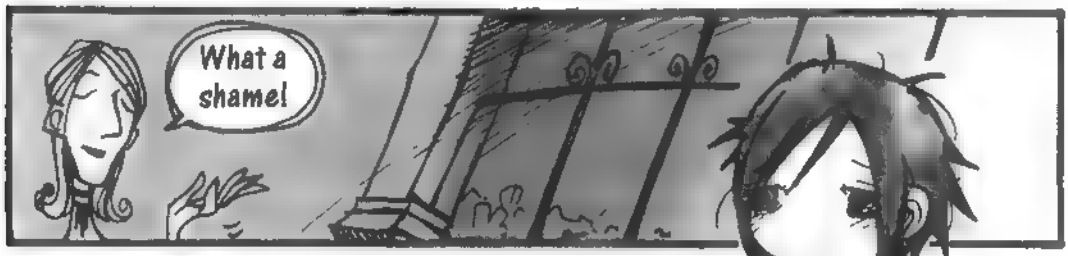
I call on you in my time of need.
I ask you to make my daughters fair, and diminish Cinderella's beauty beyond repair.
Hello, Verona, my dear. You wish to make your daughters beautiful? And what will I get in return?
What you always receive, my love.
Then it will be done.
Truly? They are more beautiful?
They will be, at the very moment they step into the ballroom.
And Cinderella?
Cinderella will be even more hideous than she was before.
Thank you.
I will be back at the appropriate time to receive my payment.
Be ready when I return.

Cinderella!
My daughters and I need your assistance getting ready.
I expect you up in my room this instant!
I was just trying on my dress. Let me quickly change.
Now!
Cinderella!
Where's my necklace?


Cinderella!
This isn't the right shade of lipstick!

Cinderella, my necklace!

Oh my! It looks like I ripped your skirt!


What a shame!

If you plan on coming with us, I suggest that you make your way down to the carriage this instant.
Oh, Cinderella, you're not going looking like that, are you?

Your hair isn't even done.

If I could have a minute to finish getting ready...
No time.
But...
Hee Hee Hee...

I'm sorry my dear,
but you should have been more prepared.
It's your choice to go or not.

Come on, my darling girls.
Let's make our way down to the carriage.

Cinderella, we will be leaving in five minutes, with or without you.

SSSZ ...
SSSZ
SSZ
SSSUU SSU
SSSUU
PONG!
GROWN GRO...
It's a pity your dress is ruined.
I think it's rather brave of you to go to the ball so... ...unprepared.
So I see you have decided to join us. How delightful.

How...
Isn't it amazing?
It's like magic!

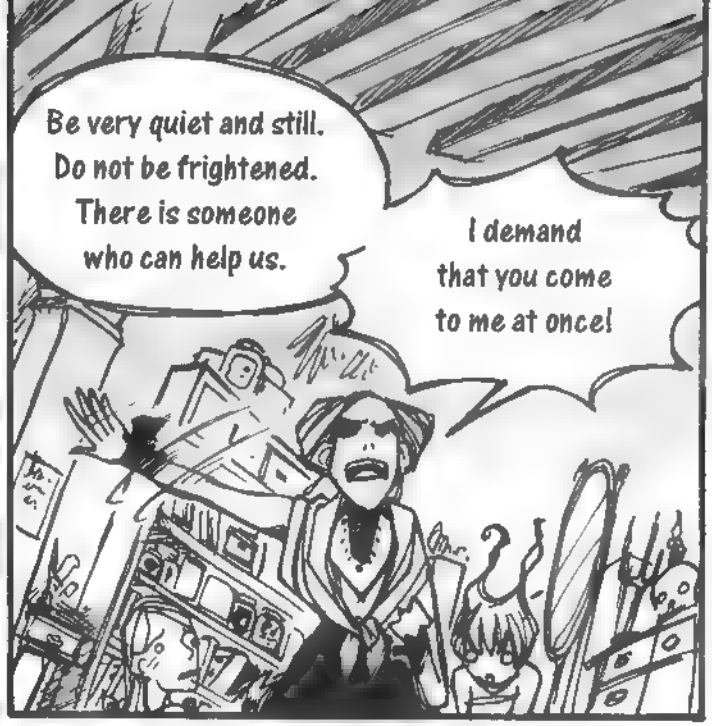
!!
Oh my goodness!

Look at your feet!
Your face! It looks horrible!

Oh heavens! What happened?!
Mother, we look hideous! What happened?

We must leave at once!

Don't worry, my darlings. I will sort this out. I promise you.
But how?
Don't question me.
But Mother...


Be very quiet and still. Do not be frightened. There is someone who can help us.
I demand that you come to me at once!

I see we are foregoing rhyming formalities.
What is the meaning of this?
Are you not pleased, Verona?

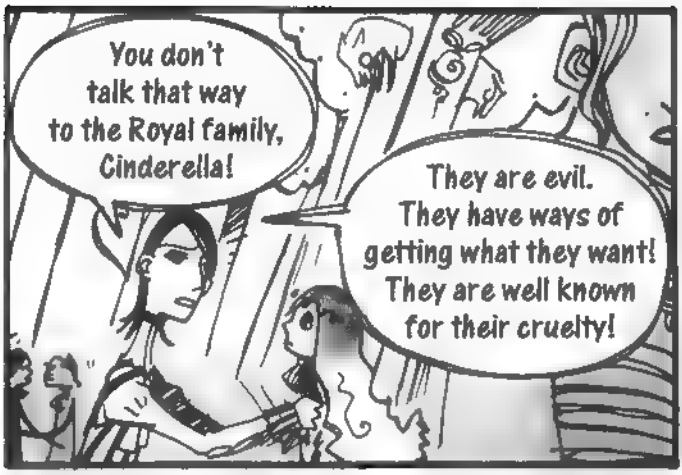
Your daughters are more beautiful than ever!
They are monsters!

Is that what you think of me, then?
No... of course not. You know I've always loved you well.

You have become stale, my dear Verona.
I crave a new bride— a beautiful bride of my very own.

But how to choose?
What are you saying? You don't mean...?
Yes, my dear– in fact, I just might take them both.
But you can't!
There is the matter of my payment, don't forget.
Please, have mercy!
Very well. I will take Octavia now...
...and if you manage to marry off your other delectible little darling to the prince, I will settle for this one and consider it payment in full.
If not, then I take them both.

The prince would like the honor of dancing with you.
I am happy with my current dancing partner, but thank you.
I must insist.
She will be happy to dance with the prince after this song is over.
... ...
I WILL NOT!


You don't talk that way to the Royal family, Cinderella!
They are evil. They have ways of getting what they want! They are well known for their cruelty!

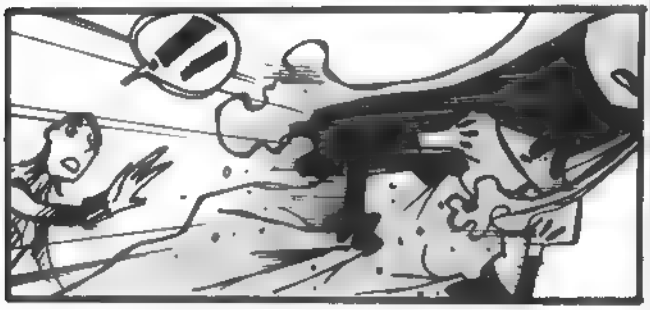
Then I'm leaving.
I don't think that's possible.

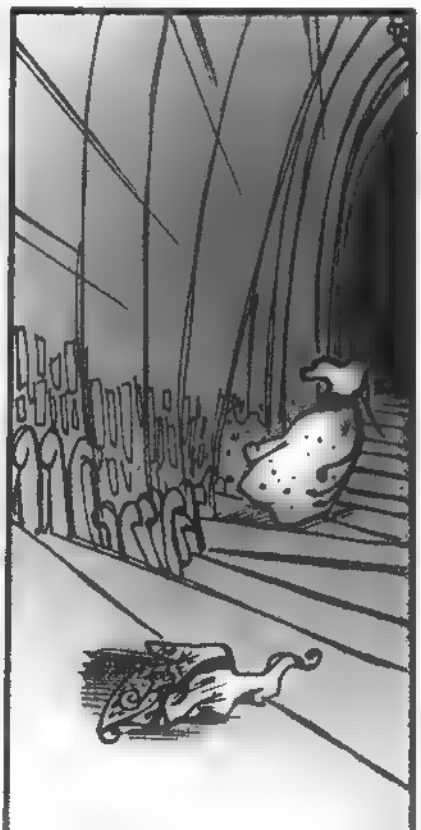
I think he's already chosen you as his bride-to-be.

He doesn't even know me! How can that be? He can't force me to marry him!
I'm afraid he can.
Didn't you know this ball was arranged for the prince to choose his bride?

!!
NO!

I'm truly sorry. If there was a way, I would help you, but...



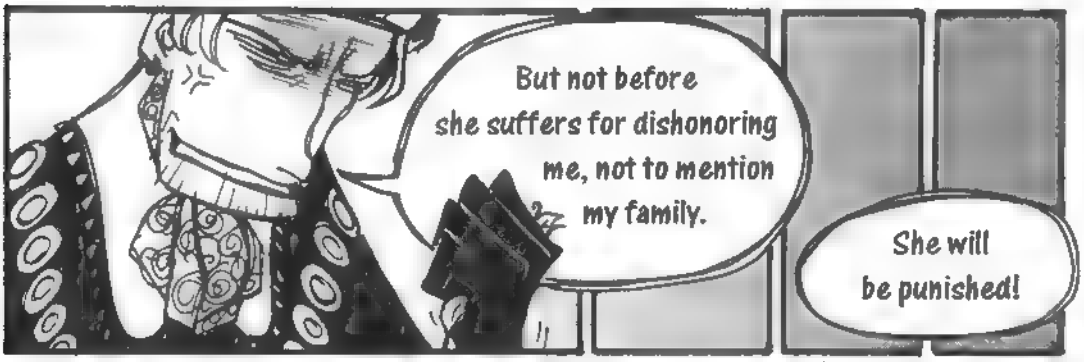


Where is that lovely lady you were dancing with?

She left!
She left?! But she promised to dance with me!

!

I will find this girl.
And when I do, she will be my bride!

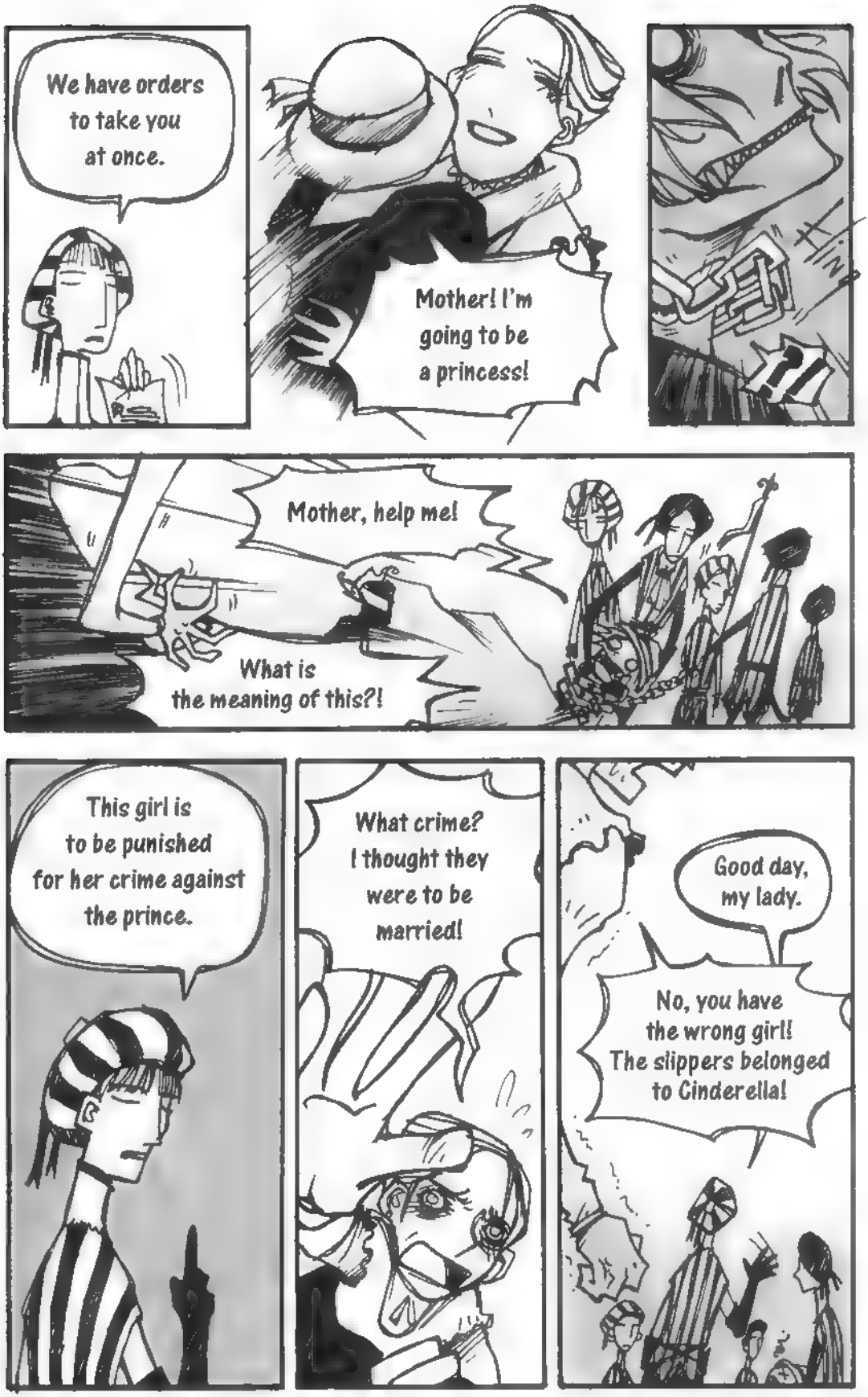

But not before she suffers for dishonoring me, not to mention my family.
She will be punished!

... ...

Wake up, you horrible girl!
Zzzzzz
Cinderella! Where's your other slipper?
I lost it on my way home.
Royal Notice
Then it seems it was you who caught the prince's eye at the ball last night.
I'll make sure
they will never find you!
Wait! You don't understand!
You will not be marrying the prince!

Pandora! Please come here!
!
Yes, Mother?
Pandora! It seems the prince will be marrying the woman who fits the match of this slipper. ... Try it on!
Mother, it's too small!
I won't have both my daughters taken away from me by that monster!
Mother! What are you doing?

Tiing
We are here for the fitting of the slipper.
Yes. Please, come this way.
Excuse me, sir. You seem to have my other slipper.
Yes. Indeed.
It's a fit.

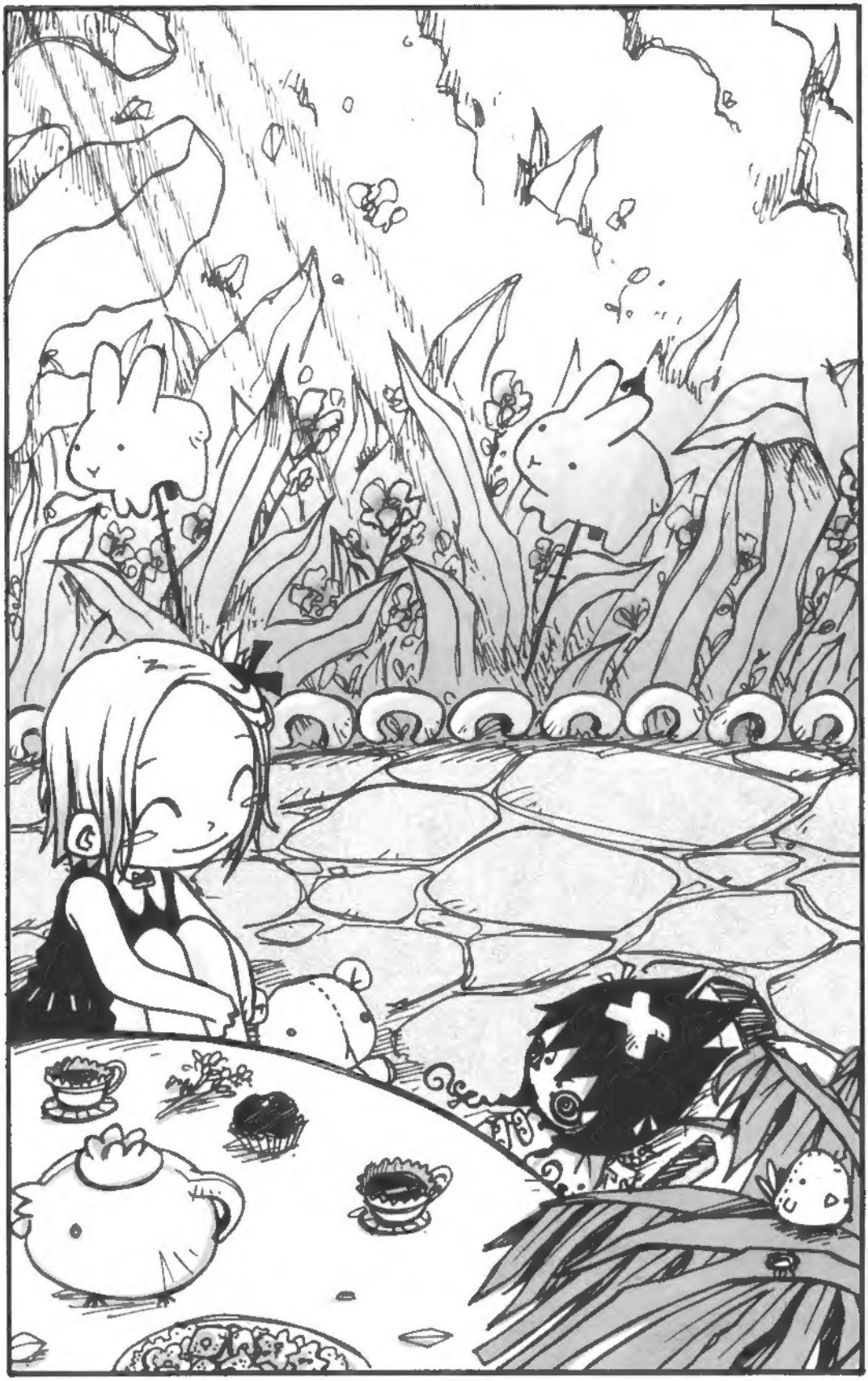

We have orders to take you at once.
Mother! I'm going to be a princess!
Mother, help me!
What is the meaning of this?!
This girl is to be punished for her crime against the prince.
What crime? I thought they were to be married!
Good day, my lady.
No, you have the wrong girl! The slippers belonged to Cinderella!

KAT
What happened? What did you do?
I tried to warn you...
...but you wouldn't listen!
The prince is EVIL!
STOP!
You have the wrong girl!
This is the girl you want! Don't take my baby! Please!

... ...
Take her as well.
She will suffer with her daughter for her lies.
NOOO!
PLEASE!
啪
Kick

.....

...and Cinderella lived happily ever after.



The End

Nightmares and Fairy Tales issue #7 – December 2003!

Serena Valentino & FSc

After years of floating in and out of fairy tales, Annabelle recalls sitting in the doll shop, and recounts the story of the first woman in the "modern world" who took her home: A sassy 1920's flapper who tragically falls in love with a man who cannot marry her. After all, he isn't a man at all... he is a ghost.

Nightmares & Fairy Tales

A word –

Hello sweeties,

Thank you so much for joining us for this issue and for all of your lovely emails and letters letting us know you have been enjoying the series.

I really enjoyed meeting those of you who came by to say hello at the San Diego Comic Con! My apologies to those who stopped by Thursday and I was not there due to my oogie back injury! But I am feeling much better!

I'm really excited about the next issue FSc and I have planned. I think I have finally found my voice for this series. I feel that I was struggling a bit with the first few stories, but I have been really happy with the most recent issues, so thank you for hanging in there with me!

Until next time,

–Serena